



The President's Daily Brief

December 9, 1976

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FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

December 9, 1976

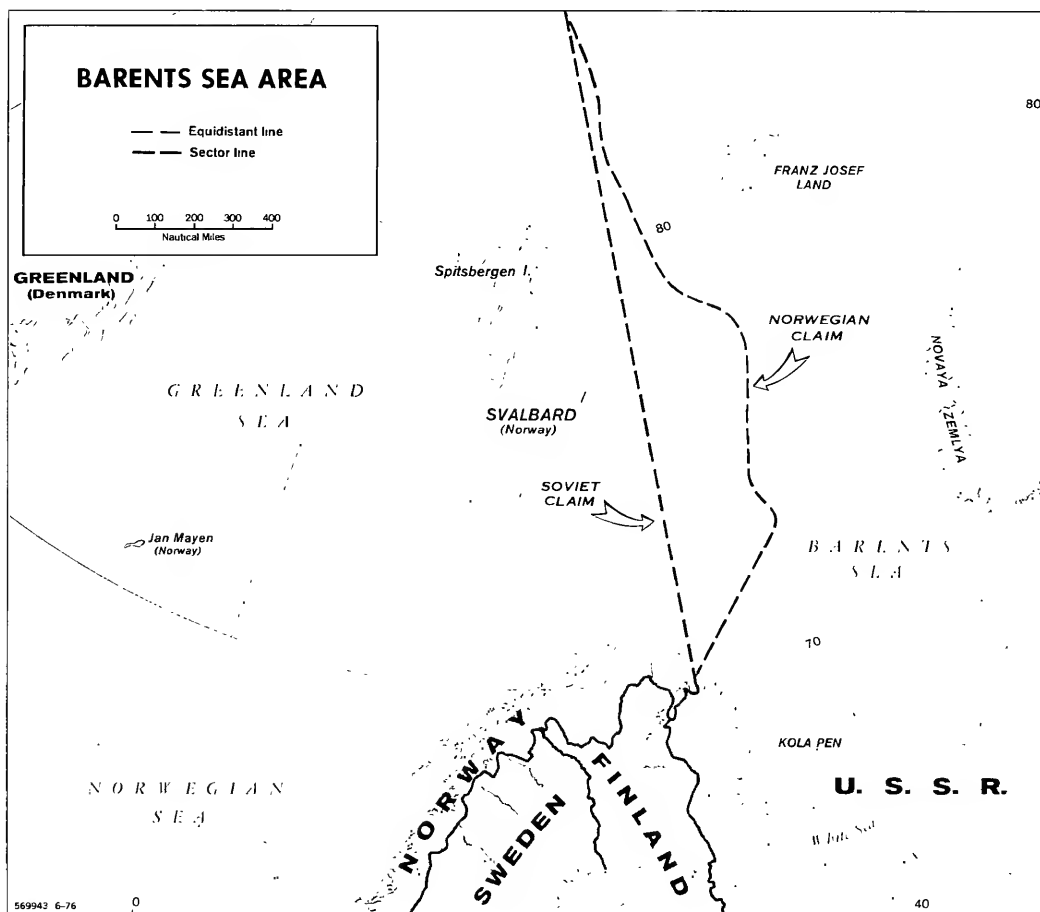
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LEBANON: *The appointment as prime minister yesterday of Dr. Salim Ahmad al-Huss, a close adviser to President Sarkis on economic matters, indicates the President's preference for a nonpolitical cabinet of technocrats, subject to his control, to guide Lebanon's post-war reconstruction and reunification. Al-Huss is a Muslim.*

According to press reports, Christian faction leader Camille Shamun voiced his support for the appointment, removing a major obstacle to the confirmation of al-Huss as prime minister. Shamun earlier had opposed a technocrat-dominated cabinet and has insisted that the Christian faction be strongly represented in any new government.

Both Muslim and Christian leaders may now increase pressure on Sarkis to facilitate the appointment of figures loyal to their respective factions to remaining cabinet posts and other major positions.

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USSR-NORWAY: *The USSR may declare a restricted fishing zone encompassing nearly the entire Barents Sea.*

The Soviet delegate to the recent North Atlantic fishing conference in Madrid told US representatives that his government might extend its fishing waters by January 1, 1977. Both the Japanese and Polish delegates claimed to be fully aware of Soviet intentions. The Polish delegate confirmed that his government had received a note describing Soviet intentions to establish protected zones in most of the Barents Sea. The Soviets are reported to be taking this action in anticipation of the exclusion of foreign trawlers from waters inside the 200-mile economic zone the EC plans to establish next month.

Norway also plans to declare a 200-mile economic zone and to establish a fish conservation zone in waters around Svalbard--an area from which the Soviets take an annual catch of approximately 450,000 tons of fish.

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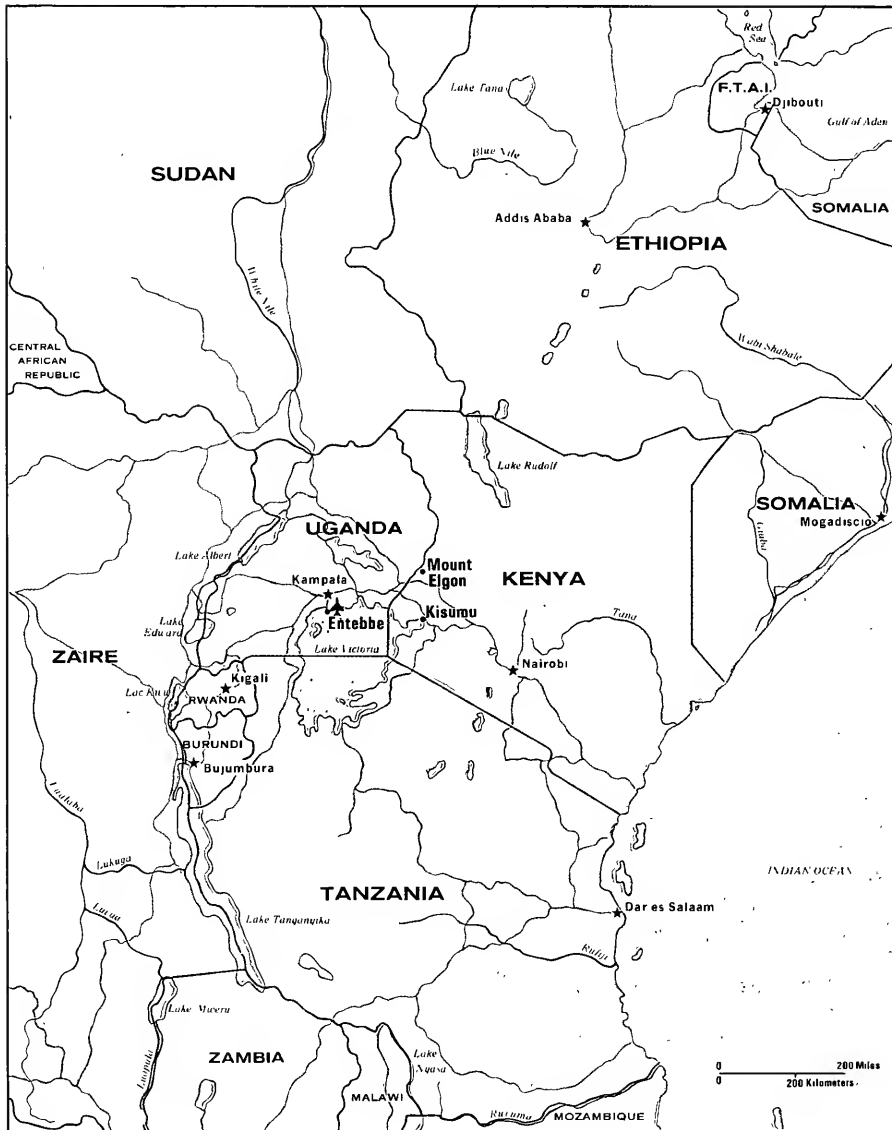
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Norway and the Soviet Union have been unable to reach agreement on demarcation of the Barents Sea in the Svalbard area. Norwegian officials were struck last month by the inflexibility of the Soviets over a compromise on the demarcation line. Moscow's current tack is to refuse to recognize any dispute in the Barents Sea, a position that may harden during bilateral negotiations this week.

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EAST AFRICA



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Liberal Democratic leaders will probably need a week to consult party members before announcing Miki's successor. The party is likely to endorse its candidate at a general meeting on December 20, with the Diet formally electing the new prime minister a few days later.

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Soviet

Turkey

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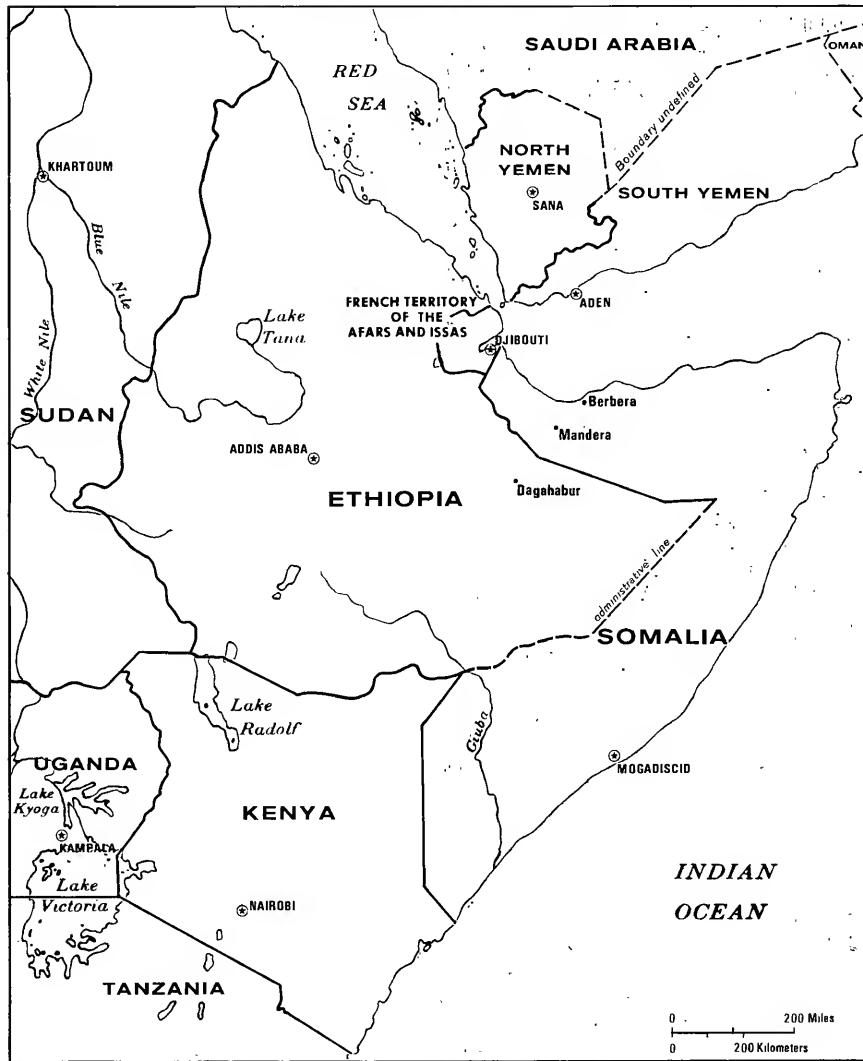
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The Horn of Africa



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Somali military reports indicate that President Siad's government is concerned that Ethiopian military moves near the northern sector of the border between the two countries might presage an Ethiopian attack.

According to the Somali reports, Ethiopia moved a mechanized brigade on December 4 to reinforce an infantry brigade at Dagahabur. The Ethiopians also sent several reconnaissance units to towns close to the Somali border. We have not detected a Somali military alert, but the army has taken some precautionary steps.

We have no confirmation of large-scale Ethiopian troop movements, but the army has probably shifted some troops in response to the steadily increasing Somali-supported insurgent activity in the area. The Ethiopians believe the Siad regime is supporting guerrilla activity inside Ethiopia in part with a view to tying down troops that might be used against Somalia should the two countries go to war over the French Territory of the Afars and Issas when France grants the territory its independence next year.

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